

**VERNONIA BOQUERONA (ASTERACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM
CHIAPAS, MEXICO**

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ABSTRACT

Vernonia boquerona B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, from Cerro Boquerón, Chiapas, México, is described and pictured. It is reportedly an arching or clambering shrub to 3 m high, occurring on steep slopes with *Pinus*, *Quercus*, and *Ostrya* at about 2,255 m.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Vernoniceae, *Vernonia*, México, Chiapas, systematics

Vernonia (s.l.) is a large genus with about 60 species in México (Turner, in prep.). The present novelty was detected amongst a large collection of comps assembled by Dennis Breedlove from throughout México, all of these deposited at CAS.

VERNONIA BOQUERONA B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Chiapas: "Steep slope with *Pinus*, *Quercus* and *Ostrya* on ridge NE of Cerro Boquerón on road from El Rosario to Niquivil," 2,255 m, 29 Nov. 1986, D.E. Breedlove 66139, with J. Sigg (HOLOTYPE: CAS!).

Similis *Vernoniae polypleurae* S.F. Blake sed frutex arcuatus aut scandens usque ad 2.5 m altus (vice fruticis aut arboris, rigide erectae, 3-15 m altae) est, foliis caulibusque adpressis-pubescentibus (vice dense hirsutorum), et capitulis cum 8-9 flosculis (vice 20-22).

Arching shrub or "vine" to 2.5 m high. Larger leaves linear-lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate-elliptic, mostly 7-12 cm long, 1.6-2.6 cm wide; petioles 3-10 mm long, gradually passing into the blade; blades pinnately nervate, the nerves prominent beneath, glabrate above, minutely pubescent to subglabrous below, the margins entire or nearly so, the apices acute. Heads arranged in rather compact to broadly diffuse terminal corymbose panicles, the branches appressed-pubescent, clearly somewhat arcuate with the heads arranged along one side, sessile and ebracteate, the distance



Figure 1. *Vernonia boquerona* type specimen.

between heads mostly 1-4 cm. Involucres turbocampanulate, 7-8 mm high, the bracts 3-4 seriate, graduate, the inner series appressed-pubescent with silky hairs. Corollas purple, ca. 7 mm long, the lobes ca. 3 mm long. Achenes 8-9 per head; body somewhat 4-sided, ca. 4 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, pubescent throughout with ascending hairs; pappus double, an inner series of ca. 40 dirty-white persistent bristles ca. 6 mm long, an outer series of ca. 30 scales ca. 1 mm high.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: same collectors, site and date as the holotype but collection number 66118 (CAS, TEX!).

The holotype has a very large open capitulescence (ca. 30 cm wide and as high), while *Breedlove* 66118 has a much more compact capitulescence (ca. 14 cm wide, and as high), otherwise the two collections are very similar.

Vernonia boquerona has the general capitulescence and heads of *V. polypleura*, but differs markedly from the latter in habit, pubescence and florets per involucre, as noted in the above diagnosis. The latter species occurs in the same general region as *V. boquerona* but at seemingly lower elevations in wetter sites (mostly 1,200-2,200 m in montane rainforests based upon data from eleven sheets at LL, TEX).

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